

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of : Labauze

Serial No. : To Be Assigned      Examiner : To Be Assigned  
Filed : Sept. 5, 2003      Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
For : RUBBER COMPOSITION FOR TIRE TREAD AND TIRE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

September 5, 2003

**EXPRESS MAIL NO: EV343638178US**

Commissioner for Patents  
Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, applicant respectfully requests that the documents listed on the accompanying PTO 1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-referenced application. Copies of the documents listed are enclosed.

Several of the listed patent documents have been cited on the International Search Report for International Patent Application No. PCT/EP02/02559, of which the present application is a continuation. A copy of the International Search Report is also enclosed, which indicates the possible relevance of each document cited therein.

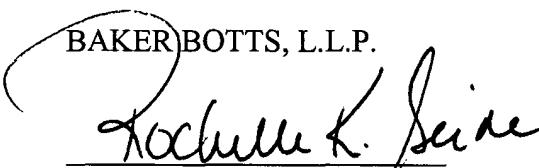
Also enclosed are copies of U.S. 5,901,766, U.S. 5,082,901, and U.S. 6,242,523, which correspond to cited patent documents, EP 0 899 297, EP 0 477 682, and EP 1 035 164, respectively.

Identification of the listed documents is not to be construed as an admission of the applicant or attorneys for applicant that such citations are available as "prior art" against the subject application. If the Examiner applies the documents as prior art against any claim in the application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of the documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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| <b>Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce<br/>(REV. 2-82) Patent and Trademark Office</b><br><br><b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT<br/>BY APPLICANT</b><br><br><b>(Use several sheets if necessary)</b> |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Atty. Docket No.<br>A35523-PCT-USA-A<br>070337.0353 | Serial No.<br>To Be Assigned |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Applicant<br>Labauze                                |                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Filing Date<br>Sept. 5, 2003                        | Group<br>To Be Assigned      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |                              |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *Exam.<br>Init. |  |  | Document No. |   |   |   |   |   |   | Date    | Name             | Class | Subclass | Filing Date if<br>Approved |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
|                 |  |  | 5            | 0 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 1 | 1/21/92 | Linster          | 525   | 237      |                            |
|                 |  |  | 5            | 9 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 5/11/99 | Sandstrom et al. | 152   | 209      |                            |
|                 |  |  | 6            | 2 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 6/5/01  | Blok et al.      | 524   | 495      |                            |
|                 |  |  |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |                  |       |          |                            |

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

|  |  |  | Document No. |   |   |   |   |   |   | Date    | Country | Class | Subcl<br>ass | Translation<br>Yes      No |
|--|--|--|--------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------|---------|-------|--------------|----------------------------|
|  |  |  | 0            | 4 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4/1/92  | Europe  |       |              |                            |
|  |  |  | 0            | 8 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3/3/99  | Europe  |       |              |                            |
|  |  |  | 1            | 0 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 9/13/00 | Europe  |       |              |                            |
|  |  |  |              |   |   |   |   |   |   |         |         |       |              |                            |

### OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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| Examiner | Date Considered |
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\* Examiner: Initial citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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